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level is the modifier level 20... The bottom level 30 is the protocol interface level, or worker level... The tree levels of the architecture are all connected by the manager 40. The manager 40 maintains a database of all the paths defined for the given instance. The manager also provides a means for the user to add, delete or modify these paths. At session establishment, the manager 40 loads the set of programs at the modifier interface level 20 and protocol interface level 30. *All messages traveling over a path do so under the control of manager 40...*

In fact, DeHart emphasizes, at column 8, lines 15-20 that "... This routing of all standard interface calls, some of which may have multiple instantiations, back to the manager is one of the key features of this invention... It is the managers responsibility to then route these calls correctly for a given path"

DeHart Neither suggests or describes claimed invention

Claim 1:

In contrast to the architecture of DeHart, in the claimed invention, control over the establishment of a path is resident in the application, not an external manager. Thus, claim 1 recites "... A method of establishing communication between a first application and a second application, the second application executing on a platform, the method comprising ... forwarding a notify message to the second application, *receipt of the notify message by the second application causing the second application to ascertain path data for establishing a path between the first application and the second application ... the first application ascertaining path data for establishing a path between the first application and the second application*; and ... the first application and second application establishing a path between the first application and the second application after the path data is ascertained by the first application and the second application.

DeHart neither describes nor suggests the steps of 'the receipt of the notify message ... causing the second application to ascertain path data...', rather, as described in column 5, lines 27 – 52 :

"The user dynamically defines a path for the accessory ... using the configurator program (Config) 18. Config 18 is a program that permits the user to interactively define a communication path by specifying a list of programs that will comprise the path. In the presently disclosed invention, Config 18 ... is part of the manager 40...

In this example, the newly defined path ... is identified by a "key". The accessory passes the key to the connectivity manager 40 with each message action the accessory initiates.

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Using the key, the manager identifies the modifiers 22, 26 and worker 38 that make up the path..."

Thus, the architecture of DeHart is fundamentally different than that of the claimed invention. In addition, Applicant would further assert that DeHart teaches away from the claimed invention when it states, at column 5, lines 8-10 "... The present system does not require an accessory level 10 program to define a specific path..."

Accordingly, for at least this reason, claim 1 is patentably distinct over DeHart, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 13 and 25:

Independent claims 13 and 25 include limitations similar to that of claim 1. For example, independent claim 13 recites "...An apparatus for establishing communication between a first application and a second application, the second application executing on a platform, the apparatus comprising ... a first output that forwards a notify message to the second application, *receipt of the notify message by the second application causing the second application to ascertain path data for establishing a path between the first application and the second application* ... a first controller that controls the first application to ascertain path data for establishing a path between the first application and the second application; and a second controller that controls the first application and second application to establish a path between the first application and the second application after the path data is ascertained by the first application and the second application..."

Independent claim 25 similarly recites "...program code for forwarding a notify message to the second application, receipt of the notify message by the second application causing the second application to ascertain path data for establishing a path between the first application and the second application ... program code for controlling the first application to ascertain path data for establishing a path between the first application and the second application; and program code for controlling the first application and second application to establish a path between the first application and the second application after the path data is ascertained by the first application and the second application..."

Therefore, for at least the reason that DeHart neither describes nor suggests, but in fact teaches away from the limitations of claims 13 and 25, these claims are allowable over DeHart, and the rejection should be withdrawn.

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Claims 2, 3, 5-7, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17-19, 22, 23, 26, 27, 29-31, 34 and 35:

Each one of claims 2, 3, 5-7, 10, 11, 14, 15, 17-19, 22, 23, 26, 27, 29-31, 34 and 35 depend upon one of the independent claims 1, 13 or 25, and are therefore patentable for at least the reason put forth above with regard to their parent claim. Accordingly, the rejection of these claims has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 4, 16 and 28:

Claims 4, 16 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DeHart in view of Aldred (U.S. patent No. 5,539,886).

Aldred describes the concept of application sharing sets. Aldred states:

“... Applications are expected to collaborate with other applications, and the mechanism for this collaboration is that they join each other in named application sharing sets. The essence of such an application sharing set is that all set members receive information in the status of all the other members; joining a set is the way in which applications declare those in which they have an interest...”

Claim 4 recites “...the first application forwarding a first ready message to the second application, the second application forwarding a second ready message to the first application... forwarding messages between the first and second application via the path after receipt of each ready message...” Claims 16 and 28 include similar limitations.

The Examiner admits, at page 3 of the office action, that DeHart does not teach forwarding ready messages. The Examiner states “... Aldred teaches (column 31, lines 1-20) ready messages (SHARE_CONFIRMED). It would have been obvious to apply ready messages as taught by Aldred to the invention of DeHart because it would allow the connected applications to notify each other that they are ready to start communications.

No Motivation for Modification Suggested by the Examiner

In order to support an obviousness rejection under §103, the Examiner must show a motivation of the suggested modification. Applicants submit that the motivation submitted by the Examiner herein, that ready messages would signal connected applications ‘that they are ready to start communications’ is not supported by the teachings of DeHart. Applicants submit that any interface signals between connected applications

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would be moot, since DeHart "All messages traveling over a path do so under the control of the manager 40 ..." (col. 5, lines 5-6). Accordingly, since DeHart teaches away from direct connection between applications, Applicants submit that there would be no motivation for the modification suggested by the Examiner, and therefore submit that the rejections of Claims 4, 16 and 28 are improper and should be withdrawn.

Combination neither describes nor suggests claimed invention

As discussed above, DeHart describes an architecture in which the control of messages between applications is handled by a manager 40. Aldred describes a different architecture, wherein applications can be 'shared'. Applicants submit that the only proper combination of the two references would be to permit applications to be shared, yet communicate through manager 40. Such a combination neither describes nor suggests the limitations of the claimed invention. Accordingly, the rejections of Claims 4, 16 and 28 are improper and should be withdrawn.

Claims 8, 9, 20, 21, 32 and 33

Claims 8, 9, 20, 21, 32 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DeHart in view of Ramanathan (U.S. Patent 6,286,047)

Ramanathan describes a system and method for automatic discovery of network services having two phases of discovery. In a first phase, the services and service elements are detected. In the second phase inter-service dependencies are detected.

Claim 8 recites "... The method as defined by claim 1 wherein the notify message is generated by a monitoring function that monitors the platform, the monitoring function responsively generating the notify message upon detecting that the first application has been added to the platform..." Claims 20 and 32 include a similar limitation.

Applicants note that claims 8, 9, 20, 21, 32 and 33 depend upon independent claims 1, 13 and 25, which are patentable for the reasons stated above. Accordingly, for at least the reasons put forth with regard to their respective parent claims, these claims are patentable as well.

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Claims 12, 24, and 36:

Claims 12, 24 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over DeHart in view of Anupam (U.S. 6,360,250).

U.S. Patent No. 6,360,250, Anupam:

Anupam describes a method for sharing information in simultaneously viewed documents. In particular, Anupam describes, at column 3, lines 1-5 "... (a) server system 100 provides users with services of (a) collaborative browsing of HTML documents at various web sites on WWW 101, and (b) real-time, interactive collaborative communications between users ..." In essence, on closer reading, it would appear that Anupam describes the synchronization of HTML pages during web communication, such as form updates or chat-room type communications.

The Examiner states "... DeHart teaches a path including channels but does not specify channel handler... Anupam teaches (col. 2, lines 5-20) a handler (event handlers) to each channel (communication channel) and each handler processing messages in its assigned channel. It would have been obvious to apply a channel handler as taught by Anupam to the invention of DeHart because channel handlers would provide independent communication channel between applications.

No motivation for the modification suggested by the Examiner

Applicants do not understand the motivation put forth by the Examiner, as they are unclear how a channel handler can provide a channel (i.e., it can be seen how a handler could execute on a channel, but not provide a channel). In order to support a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103, proper motivation must be found. Accordingly, because no proper motivation has been shown, the rejection has been overcome and should be withdrawn.

In addition, Applicants further submit that the Applicant would not be motivated to combine the references as they are directed to two different areas: DeHart is concerned with platform independent communication of data, while Anupam is concerned with maintaining document consistency between multiple users. Because these two references are from such distinct areas, Applicants submit that DeHart would not turn to the teachings of Anupam. Thus, for this additional reason the combination of Carter and Anupam is improper, and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 should be withdrawn.

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Combination of References Neither Describes or Suggests the Claimed Invention

Applicants note that claims 12, 24 and 36 depend upon independent claims 1, 13 and 25, respectively, which are patentable for the reasons stated above. The combination of Anupam with DeHart adds nothing to affect the patentability of the independent claims. Accordingly, for at least the reasons put forth with regard to their respective parent claims, these claims are patentable as well.

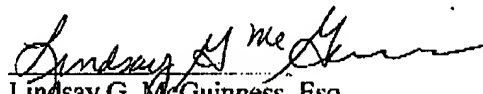
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Conclusion

Accordingly, in view of the above remarks, Applicant submits that claims 1-35 are in condition for allowance. A notice to this affect is requested. If the Examiner believes that there are still issues to be addressed with regard to the patentability of the claims, he is invited to contact Applicant's attorney at the below listed number.

Respectfully Submitted,

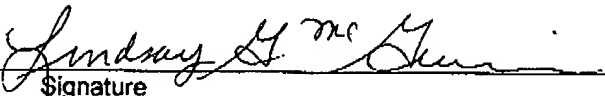

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Response - 8 sheets